

MODALE, WALTER

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COMPARISON

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# Abraham Lincoln Comparisons

Walter Mondale

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

# Democracy by the numbers at Frisco

**W**ASHINGTON — Surveying the alleged unity of the Democratic Party during a debate on July 27, 1848, then-Congressman Abraham Lincoln was moved to tell of a drunken pig thief, who listened to an indictment that he "did steal, take and carry away 10 boars, 10 sows, 10 shoats and 10 pigs."

At which point, the drunk exclaimed: "Well by golly, that is the most equally divided gang of hogs I ever did hear of."

Until the 1984 Democratic convention. The Party's equivalent of South Africa's Bevolkings Klassifikasie Raad that's Afrikaans for "Race Classification Board") reported this week on the racial and ethnic composition of the convention to be held in San Francisco this month.

cisco this month.

There will be 696 black delegates, or 17.6% of the total of 3,933. Blacks make up only 10.7% of the voting-age population, but tend to vote 70% to 80% Democratic. Therefore, they are entitled to higher representation at a Democratic convention than they have in the population at large.



**Lars-Erik Nelson**

Hispanic Americans, on the other hand, are 6.4% of the general population and will provide, lo and behold, precisely 6.4% of the delegates—254. Asian and Pacific Islanders are 1.5% of the population, but are slightly overrepresented at 1.85%.

Native Americans will have 35 delegates at San Francisco, or 0.8% of the total. Native Americans are 0.5% of the gen-

eral public.

In addition, 49.6% of the delegates will be women and 50.4% will be male. Sexual orientations will not be officially noted within the Moscone Convention Center, but 100,000 gays will demonstrate outside on the Sunday before the convention opens.

With all this meticulously calculated ethnic, racial and sexual balance, with all the painstaking and mind-numbing arguments over the rules for the fairest and most representative selection of delegates in the endless series of 60 primary elections and caucuses, with all the conscientious effort to reflect the political allegiances and rainbow origins of the American people, does it strike no one as odd that the selection of the 1984 Democratic vice presidential nominee will be left to the sole dictatorial choice of one white male middle-aged Norwegian Presbyterian?

Now, as a handful of parti-

cularly acute readers of this column have divined, I like Walter Mondale. You couldn't want a better selector of a vice president than Mondale. He is serious, sober, careful and responsible. He would never repeat Richard Nixon's greatest crime—far greater than Watergate—the selection of a Spiro Agnew.

But he could if he wanted to. The rules still say that in this day and age, when our Republic, which turned 208 yesterday, has moved far from the era of rule by aristocratic white males like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, Mondale still has the sole right to appoint someone who could one day, through triumph and tragedy, become president of the United States.

Mondale is making his selection conscientiously. Even in his slightly ridiculous parade of potential candidates to Minnesota, Mondale is sending an important message:

The door to the White House, even if it is a side door, is no longer closed to women, blacks or Hispanics. All of the people he has interviewed have talent, experience and qualifications for high federal office.

**I**N THE INTERESTS of democracy, let them be put before this magnificently broad cross-section of men, women, blacks, Hispanics, Asian-Pacific islanders and Native Americans assembled in convention at San Francisco. Let the convention choose—or else this carefully composed mosaic, this ethnic potpourri is nothing but a massive exercise in tokenism. Adlai Stevenson threw the Veep to the floor in 1956, and the floor picked Estes Kefauver. (True, the ticket lost.)

Of course, with this convention, you might wind up with Cher on the ticket. Or Yoko Ono. Or Princess Sacheen Littlefeather. Or, maybe (it's our only chance), Mario Cuomo.

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# Fritz hits GOP tilt to rich

By HARRISON RAINIE  
Of The News Washington Bureau

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are optimistic." Mondale said. "Under Reagan they've made out like bandits ... Their motto is a rising tide lifts all yachts."

**THE GOP** convention featured repeated assaults on Mondale for being weak on foreign policy and inept on economic policy.

Referring to the repeated Republican attacks that the Democrats were despairing of America's future, Mondale said: "It is not gloomy to face our problems—it's defeatist to duck them."

"In the next 74 days, I plan to smoke Mr. Reagan out," Mondale vowed. He said he would demand that

Reagan unveil his budget and tax plans to cope with federal deficits.

Mondale's broadside was also accompanied by the sending of a telegram to Reagan, laying bare Mondale's challenge to debate. A similar telegram went from Democratic vice presidential hopeful Geraldine Ferraro to Vice President Bush.

"Rarely have two candidates presented such a distinct contrast in their approaches to the future than you and I," Mondale said in the telegram. "I trust you also agree with me that this election is too important to be a contest between our advertising agencies."

Springfield, Ill.—Walter Mondale came to the land of Lincoln yesterday with a spirited defense of his candidacy, a string of scathing one-liners against rich Republicans and a vow that "before it's over, I'm gonna catch Ronald Reagan."

With a cry of "Let the campaign begin," Mondale challenged Reagan to debate six times on television and told an enthusiastic crowd of 4,000 that the GOP convention in Dallas showed Republicans to be a party "of the rich, by the rich and for the rich."

"The Republican convention in Dallas had the lowest TV ratings ever recorded for a convention, and that's because the American people know a summer rerun when they see one," Mondale said.

**REFERRING** to the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates for the Senate race in Illinois in 1858, Mondale recalled that Lincoln complained his opponent was a "cuttlefish"—a squid-like creature Lincoln said defended itself by spewing an inky fluid so it cannot be seen by predators.

Mondale said. "Last night Mr. Reagan played cuttlefish. I want to put him on warning—I'm the best fisherman in this race."

Mondale concluded. "And before it's over, I'm gonna catch Ronald Reagan."

Mondale was particularly scathing in denouncing the high-class Republicans at the convention, a group he said were rich, polo-loving, high-spending "uppies."

"No wonder the uppies

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